

5/019/035

suspect climbed into a red Toyota Celica and fled with the other assailants.

Police said they believe the incident was a home invasion robbery, noting that they found property taken from the home that was dropped when the suspect fled. Rickards declined to say what that property was.

Another occupant of the home was taken to LDS Hospital after suffering chest pains when police arrived.

## In Cruel Twist, Burn Victim's Home in Ashes

BY JACOB SANTINI

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Nov. 8 was the last day Frank Snyder spoke a word.

It was also the last day Snyder, 47, a father of four and a grandfather to three, had two hands and burns didn't cover much of his body and head.

Good news was coming Saturday morning though, the Snyder family said on Sunday afternoon. For the first time since Snyder's body was seared by 72,000 volts of electricity while he worked at Salt Lake Sand and Gravel near the Point of the Mountain, Snyder would breathe on his own.

A tube, which forced air in and out of Snyder's lungs because a constant supply of painkillers depressed his respiration, was finally coming out.

It was a milestone the family had

See BLAZE. Page B-5

## Blaze Destroys Burn Victim's 21-Year Home

■ Continued from B-1

waited for since Snyder was flown to the Intermountain Burn Center at University Medical Center. Snyder's wife Vicky said.

Just as the news was being relayed to family still in Lehi, more trouble roared into their lives.

The home Vicky and Frank Snyder lived in for nearly 21 years was ablaze. The house, at 1701 N. Railroad Street, was fully involved by the time volunteers from the Lehi Fire Department arrived shortly before 11 a.m.

"I couldn't even imagine," Snyder's older brother, Dale Snyder, said, recalling the news a day later. "We can't believe all the bad luck that has hit this family."

The fire, which originated in the ceiling above a wood burning stove, burned so hot that fire crews had a difficult time getting close to the more than 100-year-old adobe home, said Fire Chief Dale Ekins. The family members used the stove because the home's furnace was not working, Ekins said.

"I don't know how to explain it," Vicky Snyder said from the medical center, where she has lived in a trailer since her husband's electrical burns. "It was just an awful feeling."

"The thing that upsets me is we've been telling [Snyder], 'Get better and we'll take you home.' Now he doesn't have a home to go to."

Although she hasn't been given an estimated release date, Vicky Snyder believes her husband will need another month in the hospital to recover from his injuries.

In the days after the accident, both of Snyder's hands were amputated — the right arm was lost above the elbow, Vicky Snyder said. He also

lost a toe on one foot. He has severe burns on one leg, his chest and back.

Vicky Snyder also described an "exit wound" on the back of Snyder's skull that was scorched so badly that only bone was left behind.

On Nov. 8, Snyder was in a flatbed trailer that was about to be unloaded at the gravel company. Snyder grabbed a chain as a crane, driven by Snyder's son, approached. Dale Snyder said. Then the arm of the crane struck the high-voltage power line.

The power surge was strong enough to blow three tires off the trailer, Dale Snyder said.

Vicky Snyder says her husband is going to recover. "He's an incredible, strong person," she said.

Dale Snyder already has plans to rebuild. A trust fund in Frank Snyder's name has been set up at Zions Bank.

*Tribune correspondent Anne Shields contributed to this report.*

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